

REMARKS

Claims 6 and 10-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsuoka et al. (U.S. 6,104,451) in view of Min (U.S. 6,024,335). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection because neither of the cited references, taken alone or in combination, discloses or suggests a hinge mechanism attached to a frame, in the housing of a liquid crystal display device, that supports both the liquid crystal panel and the light source unit as a liquid crystal display unit, as in independent claim 6 of the present invention, as last amended.

The Examiner correctly acknowledges that Matsuoka does not disclose the hinge mechanism of the present invention, or that the connecting member of the hinge mechanism is connected to the frame. Applicants note, however, that the Examiner has not addressed the additional feature of the present invention that recites that the hinge mechanism is attached to the frame in the housing. This omission by the Examiner is significant in light of the Examiner's further comments, discussed below, regarding the connecting member of the present invention.

The Examiner asserts that Min is analogous to the present invention because Min's first bracket 50 (which the Examiner asserts to function as the connecting member of the present invention) "is *indirectly connected* to a frame holding the LCD panel and also supporting the LCD panel." (Emphasis added). This assertion by the Examiner renders the outstanding obviousness rejection deficient for several reasons. First, the Examiner has not

identified any frame that is shown or described by Min. Second, claim 6 of the present invention does not recite that the connecting member is “indirectly connected” to the frame, as asserted by the Examiner, but instead that the connecting member is actually connected to the frame. Third, as discussed above, the Examiner has neglected to examine the additional language recited in claim 6 that recites that the hinge mechanism is also attached to the frame.

Claim 6 of the present invention clearly recites, among other things, a liquid crystal display device that includes a housing, and a frame in the housing that supports a liquid crystal panel and a light source unit as a liquid crystal display unit. Claim 6 further recites a hinge mechanism attached to the frame in the housing, and that a connecting member of the hinge mechanism actually connects to the frame. Min fails to teach or suggest all of these specific connecting features of the present invention.

As even recognized by the Examiner (page 3 of the outstanding Office Action), Min’s “first bracket (50) is fixed at the bottom interior side of the rear case (13).” (Emphasis added). The rear case 13 in Min is part of the housing, and not a separate frame structure within the housing. In other words, Min specifically teaches that its “connecting member” does not attach to a frame within the housing, but instead the housing itself. This configuration is therefore significantly different from the present invention, which affirmatively recites that the connecting member connects to a frame within the housing. For

at least these reasons therefore, the Section 103 rejection is deficient, and should be withdrawn.

Furthermore, the Examiner has not cited to any element within the Min reference that the Examiner asserts to be analogous to the frame of the present invention. Applicants submit that no analogous element is taught or suggested in the reference, and particularly not one that actually connects and attaches to a hinge mechanism. As discussed above, Min specifically teaches that the “first bracket 50 [is] fixed at the bottom interior side of the rear case (housing portion) 13.” (Col. 4, lines 48-50). Min simply does not teach or suggest any separate frame which attaches to the hinge mechanism and that also supports the liquid crystal panel and the light source unit as a liquid crystal display unit. Accordingly, for at least these additional reasons, the Section 103 rejection is further deficient, and should be withdrawn.

Moreover, the Examiner improperly broadens the claim language of claim 6 of the present invention beyond any reasonable interpretation by including the word “indirectly” in referring to the connection between the connecting member and the frame of the present invention. Claim 6 does not recite such an “indirect” connection, nor do the written disclosure and the drawings of the present Application support such an overly broad interpretation. Claim 6 positively recites that the connecting member is “connected to the” frame, and also that the hinge mechanism, which includes the connecting member, is actually “attached to the frame”. No reasonable interpretation of both of these claim features together

could arrive at the conclusion that the Examiner's "indirect" connection is within the scope of the claim. Min shows no frame member connected and attached to its hinge mechanism 40, and therefore the outstanding Section 103 rejection is again deficient should be withdrawn for at least these additional reasons as well.

Claims 10-12 all depend directly or indirectly from independent claim 6, and therefore include all of the features of the base claim, plus additional features. Accordingly, Applicants traverse the rejection of dependent claims 10-12 for at least the reasons discussed above in traversing the rejection claim 6.

Claims 7, 9, and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsuoka and Min, and further in view of Kanbe (JP 7-56516). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for at least the reasons discussed above. Claims 7, 9, and 13 all depend directly or indirectly from independent claim 6. Applicants further traverse this rejection because none of the cited references, whether taken alone or in combination, teach or suggest that the hinge mechanism is attached to the back surface section of the liquid crystal display unit, as in claim 7 of the present invention.

Applicants submit, that in attempting to establish this rejection of claim 7, the Examiner has not distinguished between the liquid crystal display device of the present invention and the liquid crystal display unit of the liquid crystal display device. The liquid crystal display unit is a separately recited element from the device, and includes the frame in the housing supporting the liquid crystal panel and the light source unit. The liquid crystal

display device of the present invention, on the other hand, further includes the entire housing and the hinge mechanism. This distinction is significant with respect to the Examiner's assertions regarding claim 7, and the Kanbe reference.

For example, Kanbe shows that its stand 12 attaches to only the main housing 21 of the device 1 at the rotating pins 33. (See Figs. 1-4). Kanbe also clearly shows, however, that the stand 12 does not attach to the display unit 22 in any way. (See Fig. 2). Accordingly, for at least these additional reasons, the rejection of claim 7, and dependent claims 9 and 13, is further traversed, and should be withdrawn.

For all of the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that this Application, including claims 6-13, is in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney if an interview would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

GREER, BURNS & CRAIN, LTD.

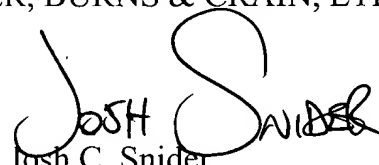
Customer No. 24978

May 27, 2005

300 South Wacker Drive
Suite 2500
Chicago, Illinois 60606
Telephone: (312) 360-0080
Facsimile: (312) 360-9315

P:\DOCS\2803\65577\955484.DOC

By


Josh C. Snider
Registration No. 47,954